Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.

2018 Tri-Valley Community Needs Assessment

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.
Characteristics and Service Needs of Low-Income Residents in Marshall, Norman, and Polk Counties

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. is a non-profit community action agency headquartered in Crookston. In existence since 1965, Tri-Valley provides services in 84 counties in Minnesota and Northeast North Dakota with a primary service area of west Polk, west Marshall and Norman counties. The mission of Tri-Valley is to provide opportunities to improve the quality of life for people and communities.

Board of Directors Priorities

Priority 1 – Improve/promote/advance the objective of coordinating the various services for area preschool children with Head Start:

- Increase the number of children served by Head Start in Marshall County.
- Increase the number of child care slots available in the service area
- Develop the area Early Childhood workforce.

Priority 2 – Improve/promote/advance the objective of keeping seniors in their homes and avoiding premature nursing home placement:

- Caring Companion Program will aggressively market private pay opportunities.
- Reach out to county workers to increase referrals.
- Tri-Valley will increase its presence at area service provider meetings.

Priority 3 – Improve/promote/advance housing options in the service area:

- A mitigation fund will be developed to help convince landlords to lease to hard to house individuals.
- Bring housing rehab resources to the service area.
- Enhance case management services for housing.

Priority 4 – Improve/promote/advance Family Engagement in the service area:

- Develop new financial literacy trainings to compliment Four Cornerstones.
- Provide more opportunities to attend parenting classes in the service area.
- Continue work on a pilot project with the Council of Collaboratives to bring Family Navigators to area schools.
Population
Population change within the report area from 2000-2016 is shown below. During the fourteen-year period, total population estimates for the report area declined by -2.8 percent, decreasing from 48,966 persons in 2000 to 47,594 persons in 2016.

The greatest loss occurred in Norman County which experienced a -10.8% decrease in population, whereas Polk County experienced a positive change of 0.58%. Of our population, 6.28% are under the age of 5, 17.37% are age 5 to 17, 59% are 18 to 64, and 17.35% are over 64 years old. (Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County)

Income
According to the U.S. Census, median annual household incomes ranged from a low of $50,893 in Polk County to a high of $54,651 in Marshall County. The median income for the state of Minnesota is $65,583. (Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates. 2016. Source geography: County)

Homeownership
The U.S. Census Bureau estimated there were 14,622 homeowners in the report area in 2016, and 77.23% owner occupied homes in the report area for the 5 year estimated period from 2012 - 2016. (Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County)

Nutrition
The report area showed that 3,236 students (or 41.87 percent) were eligible for free or reduced price lunches during the 2013 - 2014 school year, which is more than the Minnesota average of 38.1 percent. (Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Common Core of Data. 2015-16. Source geography: Address)

Ethnicity
According to ACS 2012-2016 5 year population estimates, the white population comprised 94.74% of the report area, black population represented 1.1%, and other races combined were 4.16%. Persons identifying themselves as mixed race made up 2.41% of the population. (Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County)

Poverty
2016 poverty estimates show a total of 6,090 persons living below the poverty level in the report area. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area increased by 2.98%, compared to a national increase of 2.7%. According to the American Community Survey 5 year estimates, an average of 11.71 percent of all persons lived in a state of poverty during the 2012 - 2016 period. The poverty rate for all persons living in the report area is less than the national average of 15.11 percent. (Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: Tract)

According to the Tri-Valley Community Needs Assessment survey, poverty was seen as the biggest concern in the report area.

Child Care
The number of children ages 0 - 5 potentially needing child care in the three county area is 3,056. The capacity of licensed child care providers for children 0 - 5 is 2,370. This shows a decrease of 228 spaces from last year. These numbers indicate that an estimate of 686 children and their families must find alternative sources of child care or that a parent does not or can not participate in the community workforce. Parents choosing child care which is not licensed will generally include unlicensed friends, family or neighbor care.

Unemployment
According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment for this one year period fell from 1,075 persons to 1,002 persons, a rate change of -0.21% percent. Overall, the report area experienced an average 3.8% percent unemployment rate in November 2017. (Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2017 - November. Source geography: County)

Overall
Community perceptions indicate that this area has a high quality of living standard with ability to meet basic needs the greatest strength of the report area.
• The report area has higher rates of children staying in school and getting an associates degree as compared to the rest of the state. *(Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County)*

• The percentage of persons uninsured ranged from 5.3% in Polk County, to 6.8% in Norman County. The service area percentage of uninsured is 4.47% compared to the national average of 9.16%. *(Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. US Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. 2015. Source geography: County)*

• The report area has one of the lowest rates of Child Protective Services needs in the state in 2013. *(Data Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, Minnesota's Child Welfare Report for 2014)*

• According to the Tri-Valley Community Needs Assessment survey, basic needs, education, and health care were seen as the biggest strengths of the report area.

• It is estimated that 7.2% of all households were living in poverty within the report area, compared to the national average of 11.3%. Of the households in poverty, female headed households represented 3.1% of all households in poverty, compared to 2.9% and 1.1% of households headed by males and married couples, respectively. *(Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County)*

• The median commute time, according to the American Community Survey (ACS), for the report area is 13.69 minutes shorter than the national median commute time of 24.95 minutes. *(Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County)*

Note: Tri-Valley has services in 84 counties in Minnesota and North Dakota.
### Quality of Life Indicators

#### POVERTY INCIDENCES (Rate Change 2000-2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report Area</td>
<td>4,828</td>
<td>10.25%</td>
<td>6,090</td>
<td>13.23%</td>
<td>2.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall County, MN</td>
<td>877</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>903</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norman County, MN</td>
<td>734</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polk County, MN</td>
<td>3,217</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>4,410</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>673,188</td>
<td>6.89%</td>
<td>1,063,585</td>
<td>9.87%</td>
<td>2.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>31,581,086</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>44,268,996</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates. 2016. Source geography: County)

#### Top Five Values Tri-Valley Demonstrates:

#1 = Compassion  
#2 = Commitment  
#3 = Respect  
#4 = Fairness  
#5 = Efficiency
Quality of Life Indicators

MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME (2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Area</th>
<th>Median Household Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marshall County, MN</td>
<td>$54,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norman County, MN</td>
<td>$49,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polk County, MN</td>
<td>$50,893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>$65,583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>$57,617</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates. 2016. Source geography: County)

Top 10 Strengths of the Report Area:

#1 = Basic Needs  #6 = Individual and Family Life
#2 = Education    #7 = Consumer Services
#3 = Health Care  #8 = Community Services
#4 = Environmental Quality  #9 = Mental Health Care
#5 = Income Security #10 = Criminal Justice & Legal Services
Quality of Life Indicators

EMPLOYMENT (November 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Area</th>
<th>Labor Force</th>
<th>Number Employed</th>
<th>Number Unemployed</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report Area</td>
<td>26,257</td>
<td>25,255</td>
<td>1,002</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall County, MN</td>
<td>5,687</td>
<td>5,333</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norman County, MN</td>
<td>3,426</td>
<td>3,298</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polk County, MN</td>
<td>17,144</td>
<td>16,624</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>3,066,990</td>
<td>2,986,445</td>
<td>80,545</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>161,580,864</td>
<td>155,179,638</td>
<td>6,401,226</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2017 - November. Source geography: County)

Top 10 Weaknesses of the Report Area:

#1 = Poverty       #6 = Unemployment or Underemployment
#2 = Affordable Medical Care  #7 = Substandard Housing
#3 = Crime          #8 = Shortage of Child Care
#4 = Affordable Housing  #9 = Alcohol Abuse
#5 = Drug Abuse      #10 = Medical Insurance
# Quality of Life Indicators

## Homeownership (2000 - 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Area</th>
<th>Owner Occupied Homes 2000</th>
<th>Owner Occupied Homes 2000</th>
<th>Owner Occupied Homes 2016</th>
<th>Owner Occupied Homes 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report Area</td>
<td>14,814</td>
<td>77.23%</td>
<td>14,622</td>
<td><strong>63.94%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall County, MN</td>
<td>3,427</td>
<td>83.56%</td>
<td>3,238</td>
<td><strong>67.57%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norman County, MN</td>
<td>2,438</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>2,193</td>
<td><strong>64.52%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polk County, MN</td>
<td>8,949</td>
<td>74.14%</td>
<td>9,191</td>
<td><strong>62.61%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>1,412,865</td>
<td>74.55%</td>
<td>1,525,611</td>
<td><strong>64.02%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>69,815,753</td>
<td>66.19%</td>
<td>74,881,068</td>
<td><strong>55.86%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County)

## Possible Report Area Needs Over the Next 12 Months:

#1 = Finding a job where the employer offers benefits  
#2 = Finding a job which pays enough to meet your family’s basic needs  
#3 = Finding quality child care providers  
#4 = Need for summer activities for older students and young teens  
#5 = Finding affordable health insurance

(Results based on Tri-Valley’s Community Needs Assessment Survey)
# Quality of Life Indicators

## EDUCATION (2012-2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Area</th>
<th>Percent No High School Diploma</th>
<th>Percent High School Only</th>
<th>Percent Some College</th>
<th>Percent Associates Degree</th>
<th>Percent Bachelors Degree</th>
<th>Percent Graduate or Professional Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report Area</td>
<td>9.46%</td>
<td>33.55%</td>
<td>23.06%</td>
<td>12.03%</td>
<td>15.94%</td>
<td>5.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall County, MN</td>
<td>10.97%</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norman County, MN</td>
<td>9.74%</td>
<td>40.9%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polk County, MN</td>
<td>8.93%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>7.38%</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>13.02%</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: County)
Who Did We Serve?

FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS AND/OR FAMILIES:
- Provided 185,433 rides.
- Provided 5,593 information and referral calls.
- Provided emergency car or home repair to 93 individuals.
- Provided referrals for emergency food assistance to 1,139 individuals.
- Provided referrals for emergency medical care to 37 individuals.
- Provided emergency rent or mortgage assistance to 177 individuals.
- Provided emergency payments to vendors for fuel and energy bills for 553 low-income individuals.
- Assisted 59 individuals complete ABE/GED and receive certificate or diploma.
- Assisted 57,139 individuals get access to reliable transportation and/or driver's license.

FOR INFANTS/CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:
- Assisted 1,177 infants and children obtain age appropriate immunizations, medical, and dental care.
- Improved the health and physical development of 1,180 infants and children as a result of providing adequate nutrition.
- Provided preschool activities to develop school readiness to 362 children.
- Ensured that 1,323 parents and other adults learned and exhibited improved parenting skills.
- Ensured that 1,306 parents and other adults learned and exhibited improved family functioning skills.

FOR SENIORS:
- Provided programs and activities to 3,824 seniors to help maintain their independent living.

FOR THOSE UNABLE TO WORK:
- Assisted 81 in obtaining care for their child or other dependent.
- Assisted 23,656 in obtaining access to reliable transportation.
- Assisted 392 in obtaining health care services for themselves or family member.
- Assisted 147 in obtaining safe and affordable housing.
- Assisted 1,139 in obtaining food assistance.
- Assisted 1,094 in obtaining non-emergency LIHEAP energy assistance.

Primary Service Area Map